

# What Does It Mean When Air Quality Is **POOR**

A **POOR** air-quality stage means that particulate levels have not improved or have worsened, and they exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

## **BURNING RESTRICTIONS:**

### **When the Health Department declares a **POOR** stage:**

- You may not operate a solid-fuel burning device such as a wood stove or fireplace unless:

The Health Department has granted you an exemption for this year's air-quality monitoring season. (For more information about obtaining an exemption, please contact the Environmental Services Division at 447-8351.)

Your solid-fuel burning device is certified by the EPA as having PM 2.5 emission rates of less than 7.5 grams per hour. The stove must be operating properly and in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines. The device shall not exceed emissions of more than 20 percent opacity.

- You may not idle diesel or locomotive engines for more than 2 hours in any 12-hour period.
- You may not operate an incinerator.

## **HEALTH ADVISORY:**

Sensitive individuals, such as children, the elderly, and those with aggravated heart or lung disease and cardiopulmonary disease, may experience an increased likelihood of respiratory symptoms.

Active children and adults and people with respiratory disease such as asthma should avoid prolonged outdoor exertion. Everyone else, especially children, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion until the **POOR** air-quality status has been lifted.

For more air quality information, visit the Health Department website at [www.HelenaAir.org](http://www.HelenaAir.org) or the Montana Department of Environmental Quality website at [www.todaysair.mt.gov](http://www.todaysair.mt.gov)